



## Participant Profile

Edmonston, Maryland





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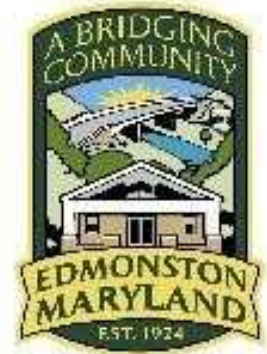
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## ***Introduction to Edmonston***

**Population: 1,488**

**Website: [edmonstonmd.gov](http://edmonstonmd.gov)**

**Contact Name: Rod Barnes, Town  
Administrator**

**AIB Committee Chair Contact: David Tana**

**Area in Square Miles: 0.40 square miles**

**Do You Have a Volunteer Coordinator? Yes, our volunteers are recruited by the Mayor and Town Council and the staff for various events and activities that occur within the Town.**

**We have a consistent group of volunteers for various activities.**





# TOWN OF EDMONSTON



## **"A Bridging Community"**

The bridge pictured above links the two wards of Edmonston. The bridge spans the Northeast branch of the Anacostia Tributary. It is the focal point of the Town Seal representing our collective and individual pursuit of the American Dream.

Most Edmonston residents come from modest means and work hard to build their bridge to the American Dream. The population is comprised of those who can trace their heritage to the American Colonies as well as those who are recent arrivals from Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, among others. Many have also settled here because they enjoy a community of such diversity. The town government reflects this as well: our current Mayor is the first African American to be elected as Mayor of Edmonston, and key laws and community information are translated into Spanish, so all can participate in the civic life of our town.

Our diversity is our strength. Per the 2010 census, Edmonston's population is 1,488 residents. Our population is comprised of 48.3% Hispanic heritage, 31.7% African American, 16.3% white, 1.9% Asian and 1.8% other. U.S. Census notes that 42% of the town's residents are foreign-born. The residents attend community events together, look out for their children and the elderly, and care for a common quality of life. The bridge signifies a prosperous and inclusive future for the next generation of Edmonston residents.

The community was incorporated in 1924 when a group of residents wanted to establish an improved quality of life. The people of the community decided to form an incorporated municipality to address a variety of community needs. Chief among these were streetlights, street paving, and most importantly, the building of a new Decatur Street bridge across the Anacostia River. The residents chose the name Edmonston for their new town, after a prominent Prince



George's County family in the region. Shortly afterward, a simple structure of steel and concrete replaced rickety wood to become the Decatur Street Bridge.



In addition to being one of our community's founding purposes, the bridge has become symbolic for other reasons. Adam Francis Plummer (a freed, educated slave) and his family settled in present-day Edmonston, and established an area known as the "Mt. Rose" settlement. Mr. Plummer's exemplary work ethic and determination to succeed has been echoed by Edmonston residents since he lived here. The town has always been an affordable destination for working people and immigrants, set on planting their feet to achieve the American dream.

Edmonston is one of 27 towns and cities located in Prince George's County, Maryland. It is located 2.5 miles from Washington, D.C. It is bordered by the Towns of Bladensburg, Hyattsville and Riverdale Park. It has several unique characteristics. The Town is primarily a residential community. It does not have a centralized retail business district, a post office, school or civic club and has one church located within the town limits. It is bordered on two sides by large industrial parks where 136 business entities operate. It does not own any parks or recreation facilities. The Town partners with the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission to have park and recreation available for residents. This includes 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue Park, Crittenden Park, and the Recreation Center at 5100 Tanglewood. The Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission controls all planning and zoning that occurs within the Town.



The town's annual budget for FY17-18 is \$1,631,477. With this meager budget, Edmonston provides community policing services with an eight-member police department. The Police Department includes a Police Chief, Captain, Corporal, 3 officers, police clerk and a full-time Code Enforcement Officer. Other Town staff include the Town Administrator, Town Clerk and two Public Works employees.

The Town has a history of setting tradition in the State of Maryland. One notable example is Kinjori Matsudairi, the Japanese American who served two significant periods as Edmonston's Mayor, and per historians, was the first Japanese American Mayor in our nation's history. His second period of Mayoral service was during the time of Japanese internment of World War II, a time when Americans harbored deep hostility toward the people of Japan. Yet



the residents of Edmonston looked beyond the issue of ethnicity, and elected the person they felt was most qualified to lead the town government. A powerful statement for the times, and indeed, a tradition that continues today. The Town elected the State of Maryland's first Hispanic Mayor, Adam Ortiz in 2005. The Town elected its first African American Mayor, Tracy Gant, in 2014. In June, 2016, Mayor Tracy Gant was sworn in as the President of the Maryland Municipal League, an organization representing 147 towns and cities across Maryland, becoming the first African American woman to lead the organization. Her theme for the year was Inclusivity. She introduced a "Time to Talk" initiative across the State of Maryland. The program focused on bringing people with different backgrounds together to discuss issues and concerns.

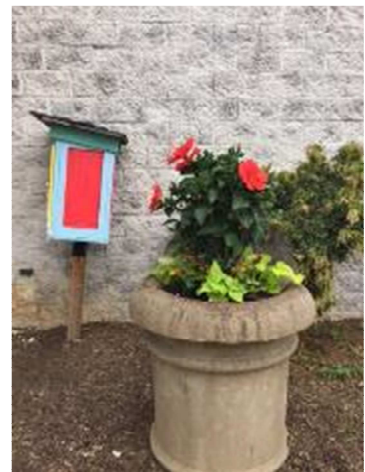




## ***Floral Displays – Attracting Attention with Colorful Plants***

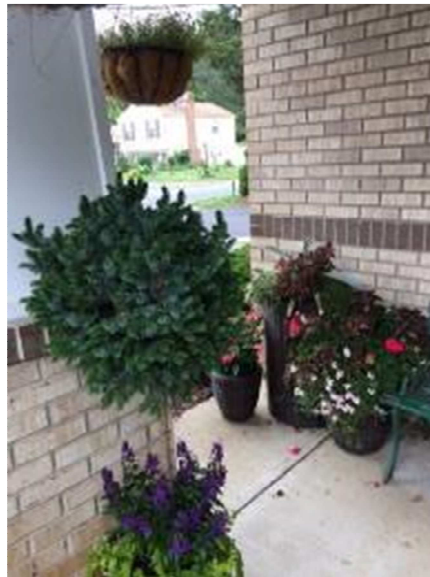
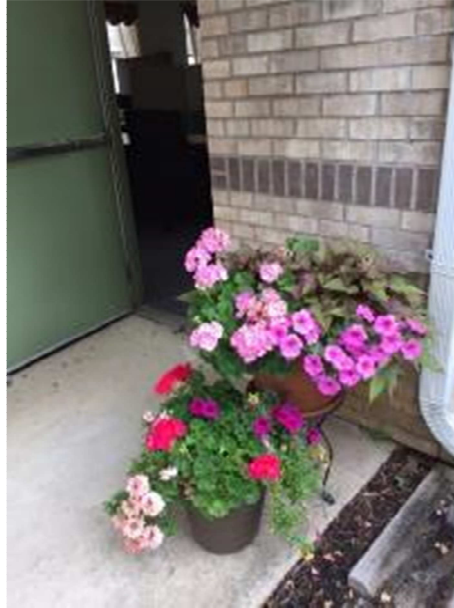
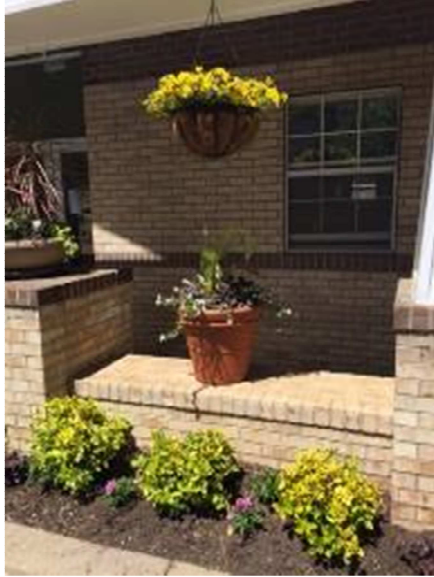
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**Municipal** One of the challenges facing the Town of Edmonston is the lack of public area in which to develop floral displays in the community. To address this challenge, Edmonston reached out to Proven Winners, a great supporter of America in Bloom. PW provided design assistance for the planting beds around Town Hall along with suggestions for colorful containers throughout the town. The first phase of the floral display plan focused on Town Hall. Volunteers added containers, bedding plants and hanging baskets to enhance the aesthetic appearance of the Town's only public building. Edmonston has added a line item in the town budget to provide funding for additional floral displays. In 2017, a local company, Metro Paving donated 39 concrete planters to the community. The planters were placed on Edmonston's "main street" Decatur Street and planted with a combination of plants providing a thriller, spiller and filler effect in each planter. Japanese Maples were used in some planters to represent the deep cultural history of Edmonston. Concrete planters were placed at Town Hall, the Recreation Center and at the Plummer Mural (Mr. Plummer was a former slave that settled in Edmonston). Knockout roses were used at the Plummer Mural because of Mr. Plummer's association with managing the rose gardens at the Riversdale Plantation. The Town partnered with an area nursery that gave the Town a discount for the plants purchased. Hanging baskets were incorporated at the Veterans' Park Gazebo and at Town Hall. Colorful Red, White and Blue pots of flowers were added to the Gazebo to complete the patriotic theme. Community Forklift donated 4 wooden planters to the Community Garden. These planters were placed alongside the fence to create space for herbs, vegetables, and pollinator flowers.



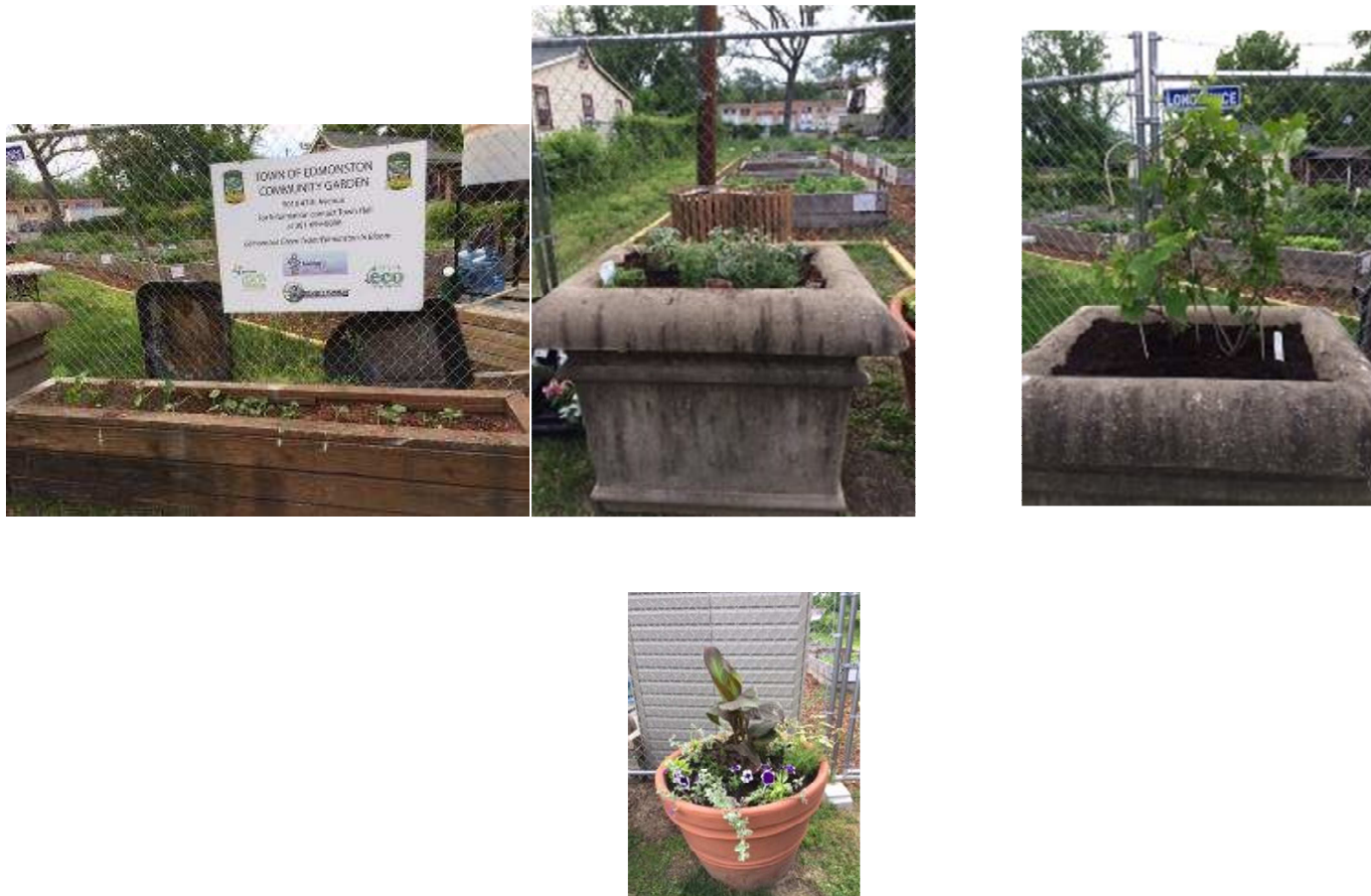


Town Hall has become the shining star in the use of floral design. The Town's number one volunteer is an AIB judge and member of the Edmonston Green Team Bloom Team. Ed Hooker designed beautiful planters for locations surrounding Town Hall. Several varieties of plants were placed in planters and hanging baskets.

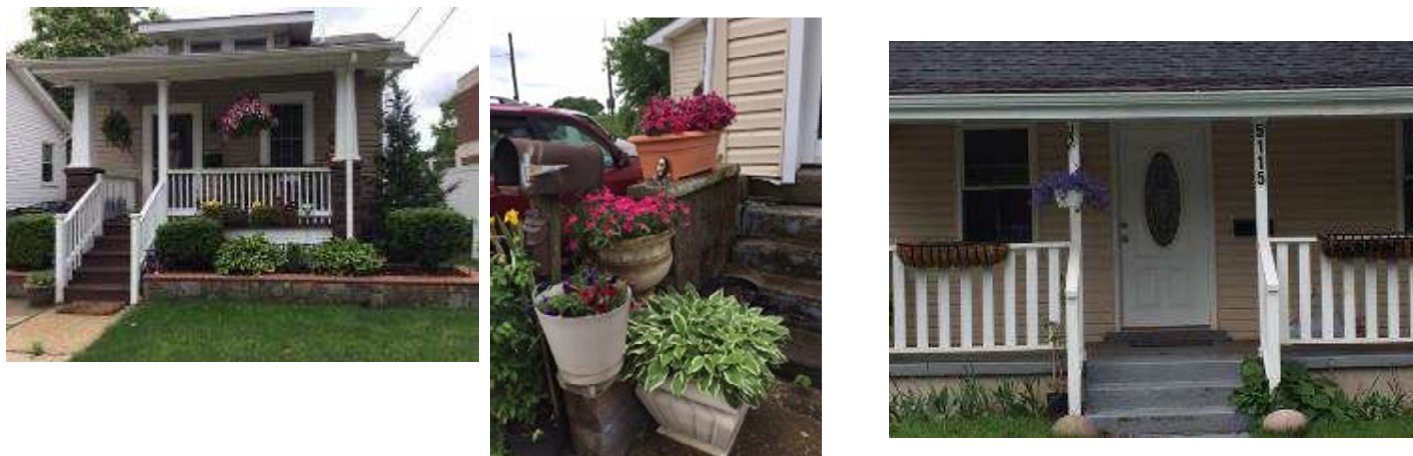




New in 2017, was the donation of wooden planters that were located along the fence at the Community Garden. The planters were planted with pollinator plants, herbs, blooming flowers and vegetables. The wooden planters were donated by Community Forklift. In addition, we placed concrete planters outside the fence along with large round pots at each side of the entrance. Finally, grapes were planted to allow them to grow along the fence.

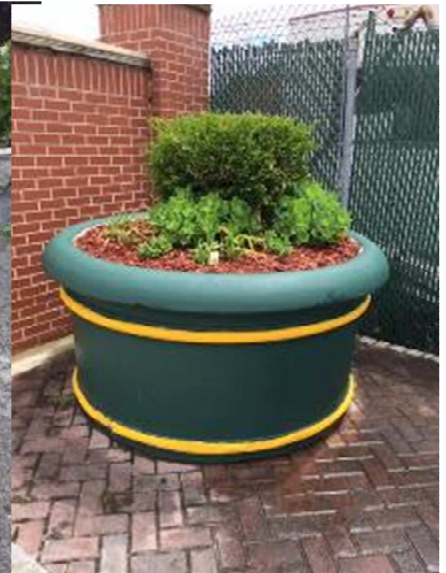


**Residential** – Various homeowners use planters to create attractive floral patterns. The Town implemented a “Yard of the Month” program in the summer of 2017. Below is the first recipient of that award. Also, below you can see one of the patio containers given to residents in 2016 to promote flowers and vegetables. Finally, you see an example of a house that was renovated and the yard completely redone. The homeowners added baskets to the porch railing and installed a beautiful rock wall to create a flowerbed. They also placed wooden planter boxes along their porch.





**Business**— Various businesses throughout the community plant blooming flowers for the season. Metro Paving has planters located on both of their business properties in Edmonston. The planters are painted their colors of hunter green and yellow. They plant vegetables and seasonal plants in the planters. At their headquarters, they have grape vines that adorn the entrance. Metro Paving received a special recognition from the America in Bloom judges previously. Another Edmonston business, La Fondita Restaurant, uses planters to highlight their entrance.





## ***Landscaped Areas – Designed Tree, Shrub, Turf, and Perennial Plantings***

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**Municipal** - With the development of Decatur Street, Edmonston's "Main Street", rain gardens were an important design element. Runoff from the streets, parking lots, and other paved areas throughout Prince Georges County is eventually deposited into the Anacostia River which flows into the Chesapeake Bay. The Nine (9) rain gardens that run the full length of Decatur Street within the Town of Edmonston help to reduce the amount of pollutants that end up in the Bay. The landscaping around the sign at Town Hall is also a rain garden that filters the runoff from the parking lot and gutters of the building. The gardens are landscaped with native plants and the appropriate plants developed for rain gardens. There are additional rain gardens at the Rec Center and two on Lafayette Street.



Town Hall, the Recreation Center, and Veterans' Park are landscaped annually. Volunteers select and plant the appropriate plants in each landscaped area. The Town pays a contractor to maintain Decatur Street, Veterans' Park and Kenilworth Avenue medians. The landscaper planted hundreds of tulip bulbs in public spaces in the Fall of 2016. The Town will be adding bulbs in the Fall of 2017 as they were the successful bidder on a bulb package at the AIB Symposium Auction. The beds are landscaped for summer flowers and changed to pansies for the Fall and Winter.

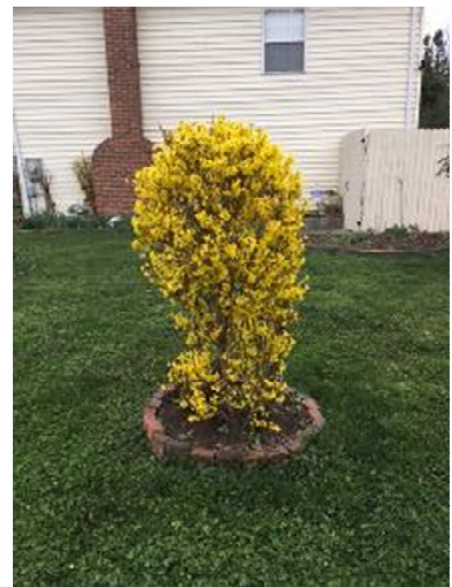




## ***Business -***



## ***Residential/Community Involvement***



Many residents landscape their yards. Pictured here are Homes on Decatur Street and on Ollie's Turn. The Town's Green Team/Edmonston in Bloom group implemented a "Yard of the Month" program in 2017. Residents compete for recognition and a gift certificate to a local nursery. Winners are recognized at the Town Council's monthly meeting. Over 40 residents participate in the annual Christmas decorating contest and 15 homes participate in the Halloween decorating contest each year.





## **Urban Forestry**

**Public** - As part of the Decatur Street Green Street Project, species of large trees that once flourished in this area, including Oaks, Maples and Sycamores, were restored as much as possible. As the new trees grow and thrive, a large canopy will increase the natural filtration of airborne pollutants, attract more watershed birds to diversify our local ecosystem and keep insects under control. The canopy will also provide more shade to decrease the 'urban heat island' effect. Smaller plantings, including shrubs and native flowers were also an integral part of the design.



Edmonston received its first Tree City USA designation in 2015 and has received it every year since. In addition, in 2017, the Town Received the "People Loving and Nurturing Trees" (PLANT) Award from the Maryland Urban and Community Committee.

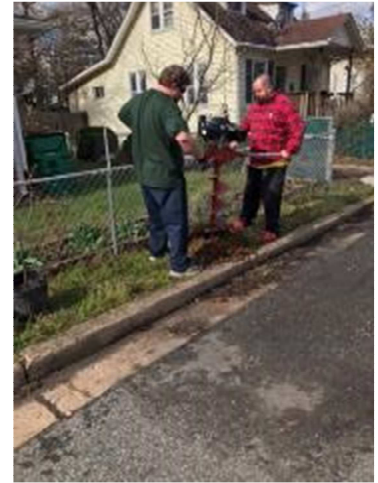
In order to promote tree growth in Edmonston, the Town Council passed Resolution 2016-01 on February 2, 2016. The resolution adopted the following initiatives:

1. Establishment of edible forests in Town right-of-way, planting of fruit trees by volunteers with the supervision of a certified arborist;
2. Offer native fruit trees to Edmonston residents on a first come, first serve basis for planting on private property in Edmonston;
3. Offer 100 planters with soil and seeds to Edmonston residents on a first come, first serve basis for use on private property in Edmonston;
4. Provide signage for the new Community Garden; and
5. Provide four bilingual classes, one each for container gardening, saving seeds, raising leafy greens on a homemade salad table in the winter, and caring for fruit and nut trees.

**Community Involvement** – The Town annually conducts an Arbor Day Celebration. In 2017 approximately 20 volunteers planted 26 native trees in the Street right-of-way on Crittenden Street. Crittenden Street is being transformed to a "green" street. Past Arbor Day events have included creating three community fruit forests. The Town received a grant from the Prince George's County Department of Environment ReLeaf program to purchase the 26 trees to be planted in the street right-of-way.

Volunteers plant trees, flowers, pick up trash, manage the Town's community garden and fruit forests. The Town of Edmonston received the Community Involvement criteria award for 2016.





Edmonston is in the process of completing a Tree Inventory for the Town. The project began in the summer of 2016 and is under the direction of a certified arborist, Kim Knox. Kim is the Chair of the Prince George's County Forestry Board and a Master Gardener.

This inventory will be instrumental in the development of a Tree Ordinance that will allow the town to maintain its current tree canopy and plan for future planting.

**Pepco Tree Program** – The Town's electric utility provider, Pepco did a tree removal project in the public street right-of-way in the Spring of 2017 on Lafayette Place and on Kenilworth Avenue. The Town required a one for one replacement. Twenty-eight trees were removed in the street right-of-way and will be replaced in the fall with Service Berry, Flowering Cherry and Purple Leaf Plum at no cost of the Town.

**Plant Award** – In 2016, the Town of Edmonston was recognized by the Maryland People Loving and Nurturing Trees (PLANT) Community Awards Program. The award recognized the Town's enthusiasm and hard work in planting and caring for trees in the local Urban and Community Forests. The award was presented by a representative from the Maryland DNR Forest Service on Arbor Day.



**Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL)** The Town of Edmonston achieved "Gold" status with the HEAL program in 2016. The Town was recognized for its efforts with promoting urban forestry through the modification of policies encouraging tree planting, providing fruit trees to residents and managing the public right-of-way trees. The award was presented at the 2016 Maryland Municipal League Conference held annually the last week of June. The Town is managing three fruit forests. One is located at the Community Garden, one at the Recreation Center Park and

one on Lafayette Place.



**State Wide Forestry Efforts** - The State of Maryland legislature passed a bill in 2017 that helps promote trees by creating a task force to study recommendations on a “net tree loss policy”. SB365 established a task force on the Forest Conservation Act Offset Policy; requiring the Task Force to review, study, and develop findings and recommendations regarding forest conservation in Maryland; authorizing the Task Force to consult with the Chesapeake Bay Program and other entities to gather information about data, models, and policies useful to carrying out its mission; requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly by December 1, 2017; etc.

The task force is designed as an update to Maryland’s Forest Preservation Act of 2013. The Act encouraged smart growth by allowing development projects that are on impervious surfaces, and within a priority funding areas, to be eligible for exemption from the Forest Conservation Act; Requires the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) provide a statewide forest resource inventory to local jurisdictions at least every 5 years to ensure that local governments have the tools and technical assistance needed to adequately protect tree canopy cover; Increases penalties for individuals that maliciously start wildfires; and Aims to improve Forest Conservation Act compliance.

The law also helps to enhance forestland and urban tree canopy, which will improve air and water quality, moderate climate, add to Maryland’s natural spaces and enhance its beauty, increase property values and provide more recreational opportunities. Trees also provide flood control, wood products, renewable energy and habitat for wildlife.

On this and the following page are pictures of the samples of the various varieties of trees found in the residential neighborhoods of Edmonston.









## ***Environmental Effort – Sustainable Development and Awareness***

### **Municipal**

Edmonston is a leading community in the Sustainable Maryland Program. The State of Maryland and Prince Georges County have a wealth of grant funding for sustainable initiatives. Edmonston has been the recipient of several grants to fund sustainable practices. The most extensive of these projects is the Decatur Green Street. In November 2009, the Town broke ground on its "Green Street" in a ceremony attended by US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lisa Jackson. The completed project was dedicated in November 2010 with significant national attention for pioneering the combination of low impact development and complete street principles. The street features LED streetlights, a green power purchase agreement, elevated crosswalks, traffic calming bump-out rain gardens and permeable pavement bike lanes that together capture nearly 100% of storm water runoff. The project has received various awards and recognition, including an "Innovations in Infrastructure" award by the White House's Champions for Change Program and sparked the adoption of policies requiring complete green streets in municipalities nationwide. The Town received the America in Bloom Environmental Criteria Award in 2015.

The materials used for the street and sidewalks consist of as much recycled material as possible, including milled asphalt, concrete and glass. The street, constructed of permeable asphalt, and sidewalks that accommodate drivers, walkers, runners and bikers. The street is featured along the Anacostia Hiker/Biker Trail that goes through town, and connects to the National Arboretum, the National Mall and the C&O Canal Trail.



Rain gardens are the most critical part of the green street. Storm water, or rain runoff, is diverted away from storm drains and the sewer system to specially landscaped areas along the street. These bio-retention cells, or rain gardens, look like regular roadside green spaces, with trees and plants, but serve a very important function in the ecosystem by allowing the water to be filtered naturally through the ground. Permeable pavers accent Edmonston's intersections and allow water to flow



through into the ground, rather than run to the sewers. This system will capture the first 1.33 inches of rainfall during a storm, which means about 90% of all rain showers in a typical year are completely filtered. The rain gardens treat 62% of the street, and the permeable pavement of the bike lanes treat an additional 28%, reducing the amount of pollutants that flow into the Anacostia, the Potomac and Chesapeake Bay.

New LED streetlights use efficient use bulbs and ballasts, and are powered by wind energy. The Town uses eco-friendly trash and recycling receptacles and benches. All are made out of recycled materials.



The street incorporates a "walking tour" of interpretative signs that describe the environmental features of the street to educate residents, students, and the public. The engineering plans and design concepts are shared as an "open source", available online, so others can utilize, replicate and improve upon the ideas of the project.



Edmonston Town Hall has been the recipient of many grants to assist with energy efficiency. An energy audit was completed for the Town Hall and resulted in the change from fluorescent light bulbs to LED. Also, all exterior building and parking lot lighting has been changed to LED. A Pepco grant of \$9,790 provided funds in 2015 to change all the fluorescent lights to LED.

An Energy-Star saving **white roof** was installed on the Town Hall. Solar panels on the Town Hall provides 3.25 Kva to the heat the water for Town Hall.



A rain garden was installed in front of the Town Hall. The garden captures storm water and allows it to slowly soak into the ground. Layers of soil and water-loving plants naturally filter and remove pollutants. A rain garden can absorb several times more rainwater than a lawn. Rain gardens are easy to maintain and, after the plants are well established, rarely need watering. In a rain garden, the water soaks into the soil within 24 hours, too quickly for mosquitoes to hatch and grow. The more rain gardens in your yard, the less lawn you must weed, feed, and mow. Rain gardens also attract and create a habitat for hummingbirds and butterflies.

A rain barrel has been installed at the Town Hall to help capture storm water runoff from the roof. This rainwater is stored and used to water the surrounding plants during dry spells.

All energy purchased by the Town is 100% clean wind energy.



Also, with the assistance of grants from the Maryland's Smart Energy Communities, Edmonston has received two electric vehicles. The first one is a Nissan Leaf for the





Code and the second one is a Public Works Electric Utility Vehicle (GEM). The vehicle is being used as a utility truck around town and reduces approximately 450 gallons of fuel usage in the PW pickup trucks. An estimated annual savings of approximately \$1,710 is expected. The GEM is used for various activities to include cleaning, removal and hauling of litter in and around Town gateways, parks, buildings, parking lots and open spaces.

Several initiatives are already underway, including the Port Towns Community Health Partnership, which provided a grant to Edmonston to hire a program coordinator to develop programs and seek grant funding centered around HEAL (Healthy Eating, Active Living), and the Support Youth Wellness Leadership Pilot Program. The Port Towns Youth Council is a community-based student government organization that empowers and engages youth and families in Port Town and County communities. These students age from ages 10 to 17 are nominated by their schools or local municipalities to be the youth advocacy voice for the Port Towns.



There are two Farmers Markets that serve the Town of Edmonston. The Riverdale Park Farmers Market is the areas source for local hi quality organic and conventionally grown fresh vegetables and fruits, honey, baked goods, pasture fed meat, and other regional food and plant items. The market is a “producers only” market that operates year-round. ECO City Farms is a major partner in the market. The Port Towns Farmers Market opened June 4<sup>th</sup> in Edmonston at the Three Brother’s Parking Lot. The Town contributes funds to the market to assist low-income families with fresh vegetable purchases by doubling the value of their EBT/SNAP dollars.

The Town conducted an energy audit of the Town Hall on January, 2016. Shepherd Energy’s audit revealed a need for additional insulation in the attic of the building. As a result, the Town received a 5<sup>th</sup> round Maryland Smart Energy Grant from the Maryland Energy Administration. The \$24,650 grant provided funds to insulate the attic of the Town Hall. The project was completed in May, 2017. To continue towards living by our mission of being green, the insulation used will be recycled denim. It offers

- **Sustainability.** It typically contains 85 percent recycled content. Also, the natural cotton fibers are 100 percent recyclable at the end of the insulation's usable life.
- **Eco-friendliness.** By using post-industrial material, companies that produce recycled denim insulation divert waste destined for landfills. One company estimates that it diverts 200 tons a month. In addition, the manufacturing process for this insulation requires much less energy than the manufacturing of fiberglass insulation.
- **Excellent thermal performance.** Using recycled denim insulation results in higher HVAC efficiency and lower energy bills.
- **Better indoor acoustics.** Denim insulation's acoustic ratings are about 30 percent higher than those for traditional insulation, creating a quieter interior for homeowners.
- **Better indoor air quality.** Recycled denim contains no volatile organic compounds or formaldehyde, which off-gas and pollute a home's indoor air.



- **Improved health and safety.** Installing recycled denim doesn't irritate the skin or the respiratory tract. Moreover, the product requires no carcinogenic warning label. Typically, this insulation is treated with an EPA-approved borate solution that provides a Class A fire-resistance rating, which certifies a product as effective against severe exposure to external fires, not readily flammable and not a contributor to the spread of fire. (Borate has lower toxicity than table salt and is safe for humans and the environment.) It's also treated with an EPA-registered fungal inhibitor for additional protection against mold, mildew and pests.

**On June 8, 2016, the Mayor and Council passed resolution 2016-05 creating a sustainability policy for all purchasing done within the Town.**

This Sustainable Procurement Policy is intended to:

- Identify those sustainability factors that shall be incorporated into procurement decisions;
- Provide implementation guidance;
- Empower employees to be innovative and demonstrate leadership by incorporating sustainability factors into procurement decisions;
- Communicate the Town of Edmonston's commitment to sustainable procurement.



The Town is developing a second “green” street on Crittenden Street. The project calls for 3 rain gardens, solar powered lighting, pervious sidewalks, trees and flowers in the right-of-way, and informational kiosks about environmental efforts. The Town received a \$15,000 grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust to develop a ‘green’ street concept plan for Crittenden. Once the plan was developed, the Town received a grant from the Chesapeake Bay to design the project. .26 trees were planted in observance of Arbor Day on April

1, 2017. The Town received a \$76,000 grant to repave the street. The final step in developing Crittenden into a “green” street will be the addition of wind power supplied lighting.



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The Town of Edmonston along with 4 other communities in the Port Towns received a grant from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development to install two Big Belly trash receptacles on Decatur Street. The receptacles costing \$16,391 were placed at the corner of Decatur and Kenilworth

The Town received a \$16,250 Maryland Smart Energy Communities grant to install an electric vehicle charging station at Town Hall. The grant will provide funds also to replace an administrative vehicle with an electric vehicle. The target for the Town is to reduce its use of fossil fuels by 20% by the year 2020. The vehicle will be the Town's third electric vehicle. The vehicle charging station will be installed at Town Hall to allow use by the Town and by residents.





The Town received a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust in August, 2016 to host a member of the Trust's Conservation Corp for one year. The Corp is made up of college graduates that have studied in the environmental field. They apply to a highly competitive program to spend a one year internship working at host sites. Chesapeake Bay Trust pays the interns for their service for the one year period. Each intern is responsible for one "capstone" project. Bernard Devlin joined our team on August 25, 2016. He chose for his capstone project the development of a summer Environmental Camp. Other projects he worked on included the development of environmental welcome bags for residents, researching adding electric vehicle charging stations to Town Hall and completing the Town's Environmental Activity Book.



The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) designated Edmonston as a Green Power Community. The program is a voluntary program that encourages organizations to buy green power to reduce the environmental impacts associated with purchased electricity use. The Partnership currently has nearly 1,300 Partner organizations voluntarily purchasing billions of kilowatt-hours of green power annually. Green Power is generated from renewable resources such as solar, wind, geothermal, biomass, biogas and low-impact hydropower. Green power resources produce electricity with an environmental profile superior to conventional power technologies and produce no net increase to greenhouse gas emissions.

Edmonston has milled and repaved feeder streets to create additional bike lanes to join the Anacostia Bike Trail System. In 2016, the Town completed a Pedestrian, Bike and Sidewalk concept plan for the community. The plan identifies potential trail, sidewalk and bike lane improvements on the Town's streets.





## Business

Edmonston is home to several environmental businesses that promote sustainability and protection of the environment – ECO City Farms, Community Forklift are two of those examples.



Established in 2010, ECO City Farms is an educational, non-profit organization located in Prince George's County, Maryland designed to serve as a prototype for sustainable local urban farming. ECO City Farms seeks to enhance food



security, safety and access, to improve nutrition and health, to preserve cultural and ecological diversity, and to accelerate the transition to an economy based on preservation, recycling and restoration. ECO works to create a bio-diverse ecosystem to nourish our plants and animals, and a diverse inclusive workplace and farm community that respects and embraces differences in all our activities and operations. ECO City Farms has converted previously vacant land into a highly productive farming enterprise that produces healthy vegetables, fruit, herbs, eggs and honey. Their produce is **Certified Naturally Grown** by fellow farmers who establishes an international grassroots alternative to the USDA Certified Organic Program. They employ environmentally sound, chemical-free, permaculture farming methods and support others to do the same. Their summer **SEED2FEED** program creatively employs art and science to support local young people and their families' efforts to grow, cook, eat and value healthy food and advocate for food justice.







Community Forklift, a project of Sustainable Community Initiatives, is a nonprofit reuse center for home improvement supplies. They pick up donations of unwanted and salvaged building materials throughout the metro DC

region. Then, they make the building materials available to the public at low cost, and provide vintage materials for restoring old homes. They also offer public education about reuse, and distribute free supplies to local nonprofits and neighbors in need.

The program reduces construction industry waste, keeps reusable materials out of the landfill, and reduces the mining and harvesting of dwindling natural resources. Community Forklift provides public education about reuse and recycling options, green living, and environmental sustainability, while at the same time builds the local economy and develops career opportunities for nearby residents.

Community Forklift is breaking this destructive cycle by finding new lives for old materials. Since 2005, they have recovered \$12 million of building materials in the DC metro region, keeping tons of materials from going to landfills or being burned in incinerators. They have provided materials for 20,000 homeowners, small businesses, non-profits, artisans, and historic restoration projects. CF has awarded over \$55,000 in free supplies to low-income families and community groups. In addition, CF has partnered with over 100 community organizations, housing non-profits, schools, gardens, theatres, Eagle Scout projects, faith-based groups, and volunteers that fix up homes for the elderly. During the summer, CF sponsors First Friday events, and invites the community into the warehouse for live music, food and retail opportunities. In addition, they conduct classes at Community Forklift. These include, Fruit Trees and Container Gardening. The classes are taught by Green Team member Kim Knox, a Master Gardener and a certified Arborist. Residents from Edmonston were eligible to receive a free fruit tree or a vegetable container.





The Town participates in the Port Towns Community Health Partnership classes. Businesses and are encouraged to send employees to the classes and residents are eligible to sign up. The classes focus on rain tax information, how to build and maintain a rain garden, pervious payment classes and canning. The Prince George's County rain tax provides rebates to businesses for installing sustainable environmental options on their property. Examples are rain gardens, pervious pavement, etc. In addition, the Town partnered with the Prince George's County Department of Environment and the Port Towns Health Partnership to offer pervious pavement classes for residents. The classes began being offered on Saturdays in 2015 and have been continued each year since. They are conducted at the Colmar Manor Community Center.

In 2017, the Port Towns Community Development Corporation received a grant to work with businesses and residents in the four Port Town communities to identify storm water issues. The grant provided funds for an outreach coordinator that met with the communities' Town Councils, green teams, businesses and community organizations to gather information on where storm water projects could be completed that would improve the water quality for the Chesapeake Bay.

**WE WANT TO KNOW:  
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN IT  
RAINS?**

**EcoDistrict Stormwater Master Plan**  
Does your basement flood when it rains? Do you have standing water in your yard? Does your neighborhood have streets that do not drain like they should? Let us know. We are working to map out areas that experience flooding in the Port Towns – Bladensburg, Colmar Manor, Cottage City, and Edmonston.

**Clean Water  
Healthy Life**  
we all live downstream

**Low Impact  
Development  
Center**

**CBT TRUST**

This project is a partnership between the Port Towns Community Development Corporation and the Low Impact Development Center with funding made possible by the Chesapeake Bay Trust and the Prince George's County Department of the Environment.

**Flooding costs homeowners millions of dollars**

**Large asphalt driveways can cause flooding**

**Simple solutions can save you thousands of dollars**

**Help us help you and your neighbors**

**TO REPORT A PROBLEM  
CALL TEXT OR EMAIL  
PORT TOWNS CDC**  
Abel Olivo  
301-407-0711  
outreach@porttowns.org

**www.porttowns.org**  
on Facebook  
@PTStormwaterProject

**¿QUEREMOS SABER:  
¿QUE PASA CUANDO  
LLUEVE?**

**EcoDistrict Stormwater Master Plan**  
¿Su inundación del sótano cuando llueve? ¿Tiene agua estancada en su patio? ¿Su vecindario tiene calles que no drenan como deberían? Háznos saber. Estamos trabajando para mapear áreas que experimentan inundaciones en Port Towns - Bladensburg, Colmar Manor, Cottage City y Edmonston.

**Clean Water  
Healthy Life**  
we all live downstream

**Low Impact  
Development  
Center**

**CBT TRUST**

Este proyecto es una asociación entre la Port Towns y el Low Impact Development Center, con financiamiento hecho posible por el Chesapeake Bay Trust y el Prince George's County Department of Environment.

**Las inundaciones cuestan a los dueños de casa millones de dólares**

**Las grandes calzadas de asfalto pueden causar inundaciones**

**Soluciones sencillas pueden ahorrar miles de dólares**

**Ayúdanos a ayudarte a ti y tus vecinos**

**PARA REPORTAR UNA PROBLEMA LLAMA, TEXTO O CORREA ELECTRÓNICO A PORT TOWNS CDC**  
EcoDistrict Stormwater Project  
Abel Olivo  
301-407-0711  
outreach@porttowns.org

**www.porttowns.org**  
Encuétranos en Facebook  
@PTStormwaterProject



## Eco District Designation

The vision of the Port Towns is a strong collaborative, partnered set of communities at the gateway of Prince George's County, focused on healthy and sustainable lifestyles for its residents, businesses and the environment. Developing the Port Towns as an Eco-District is a major goal. The Prince George's County Department of Environment declared the Ports Towns as an Eco District on June 5, 2017.



An Eco District is an urban planning area aimed at integrating objectives of “sustainable development” and reducing the ecological footprint. The concept insists on the consideration of the whole range of environmental and social-economic issues by connecting the planning effort with outcomes that result in a cleaner, greener, and healthier community. The designation of Eco District has two chief goals for the Port Towns: 1) expand the County’s ability to be a regional leader in recycling, reuse and repurposing of building and organic waste by utilizing the ample, affordable industrial space by; and 2) create a leading-edge facility to help incubate and accelerate the development of


green and sustainable businesses. Working with its neighboring Port Towns Communities, Edmonston plays a major role in state legislative actions that support sustainability.

You are invited...

# PORT TOWNS ECODISTRICT KICKOFF

4871 Longwood Drive, Edmonston, MD 20781  
Along pg 401 Road, drive from Community Road

R.S.V.P preferred :  
Info@pg.mnla.us or 301-853-5157



Monday  
**JUNE 5, 2017**  
**10AM**

- Learn information about incentives available to businesses locating or expanding in the Port Towns Ecodistrict.
- Get updates on new development expected in the area.
- Obtain latest details on the Port Towns Ecodistrict Stormwater Project.
- View some of the green and sustainable businesses and projects in the Port Towns Eco District via a walking tour with the tour.



## Residential Community Involvement Education



Edmonston, in conjunction with ECO City Farms and Maryland Park and Planning, and the Port Towns Community Health Partnership with grants of nearly \$4,000, opened its Community Garden on May 15, 2016. The garden was developed using volunteers to prepare the beds.



Medical students from Fort Lincoln Clinic volunteered to work in the garden. Other volunteers included local residents, is developing a Community Garden Plan. A plot adjacent to 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue Park has been identified as the first location and will be designed and installed prior to next year's growing season. Pre-construction will begin summer 2015 with implementation by Spring 2016. The Garden was expanded in 2017 with planters placed outside the fence. Vegetables, herbs, pollinator plants and flowers were planted in the planters.

The Town of Edmonston became a partner with MD Sun and the Prince George's County Department of Environment in 2016 to offer the residents of Edmonston the opportunity to join a co-op for the purchase of solar energy. Town Hall has had solar panels since 2013, in the past 3 years, 6 residents have added solar panels. One of the oldest homes in Town is pictured to the right after newly installed solar panels.



The Green Team sponsored a rest stop for the annual "Bike to Work Day" on May 19, 2017. Over 100 bicyclists and walkers stopped by the rest stop. Volunteers from the Department of the Environment, ECO City Farms, Community Forklift and the Town of Edmonston provided information and veggie smoothies created by pedal power on the ECO City bike, along with food donated by La Fondita Restaurant for weary riders and walkers along the Anacostia River Trail.

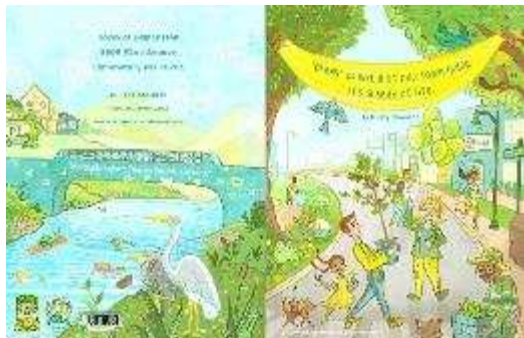


Community Outreach with volunteers is a key component of the Town of Edmonston's Green team/Edmonston in Bloom efforts. Besides having environmental information available in printed documents, the Town participates in a few community events by having informational tables. The events include Night Out Against Crime, Port Towns Day, Edmonston Day, the Port Towns Farmer's Market and at the Roger Heights Elementary School Fair. Volunteers provide information on the various environmental efforts the Town undertakes. Pictured to the right is the Green Team Display at the Port Town's Farmer's Market.



A weatherization grant with the Prince George's Community Collaborative offers weatherization grants to eligible homeowners in the Port Towns. Edmonston has had 12 residents take advantage of a free energy audit, free appliance upgrade and overall improvements in the weatherization of homes. In 2017, the Town received its own Weatherization grant from the Maryland Energy Administration in the amount of \$81,000. The grant will be used to assist 10 homes with replacing appliances to Energy Star rated, improving insulation and air tightness of the home and other weatherization deficiencies as needed.

The Town of Edmonston is part of the Port Towns Community Health Partnership. The Partnership's goal is to make the Port Towns a healthy place to live, learn, work, play, and worship. The Community Health Partnership aims to create a thriving Port Towns community where residents have access to affordable, healthy foods and where active lifestyles are encouraged and supported. In this way, we can work to halt, and ultimately reverse, the growing trend of overweight and obesity, and the rise in preventable diseases like diabetes and heart disease.



The Town developed an environmental activity book. Prior to distributing the book, a survey was sent to all residents to gauge the environmental knowledge of residents. Those completing the survey were entered in a drawing for a gift certificate. The books were distributed and a second survey was mailed to see if the knowledge had increased. The Town received a mini grant in the amount of \$2,075 to produce the activity booklet.

The Town will host its first Environmental Summer Camp for children age 8 to 13 for 10 weeks this summer. The Busy Bees Environmental Summer Camp curriculum is designed around the environment and includes themed weeks as follows:

Gardening, Chesapeake Bay, Wildlife, Recycling, Fitness, Health/Nutrition, Atmosphere, and Parks. Trips to the Bladensburg Waterfront Park to learn about the Anacostia River and to the National Zoo will help students understand how the environment is connected. The Town received a \$6,400 Community Development Block Grant to help offset the free camp for children. The camp is housed at the Edmonston Recreation Center.







One of the first projects the Town's Conservation Corp Intern completed was the design of Environmental Welcome Bags. The bags were reuse bags filled with environmental information and delivered to all the homes in Edmonston. Items included in the bag were water saving ideas from Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, fire safety tips, voter registration, information on plants and trees, information from the Prince George's County Department of Environment on recycling and pet waste. The Police Department provided information about the Department and we provided a flyer that gave information on the Mayor and Town Council along with how to stay connected with the Town of Edmonston.

In conjunction with the Town's annual Arbor Day celebration, the staff offered a workshop for homeowners to sign up for a free rain barrel. The rain barrel rebate program is offered by the Chesapeake Bay Trust. Residents were taught how to install the rain barrels and was given information on the promotion of the rain barrels. In conjunction with the workshop, there was a seed give away. Residents could help themselves to a myriad of seed varieties.



The Town was selected to participate in a Pet Waste Reduction Program through the Sustainable Maryland program. The Town is one of seven Maryland communities selected to develop a pet waste program. Sustainable Maryland will provide 10 pet waste receptacles for the community. Ten locations in public areas throughout the Town have been identified for locating the stations. The stations will be installed in late summer. Promotion material will be distributed to residents via Facebook, promos on the government access channel, website, and via the Town newsletter.

The Town of Edmonston has been a Sustainable Maryland certified community since 2013. The Town was renewed in 2016. The program provides an opportunity for Edmonston to learn about other sustainable programs in the State of Maryland. It provides the expertise of the Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland's expertise on grant writing and on identifying potential grants. The EFC holds training sessions for certified Sustainable Maryland communities. They offer onsite training for community Green Teams and provide webinars on various environmental topics throughout the year.





In May, 2017, the Town received a grant from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources in the amount of \$47,221. A portion of the grant will be used to construct a rain garden at the 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue Park. The Park is a Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission neighborhood park where the Town's Community Garden is located. The rain garden will solve flooding and stormwater runoff issues at the far end of the Park. The funds also include the replacement of a fence and the conversion of a tennis court to a futsal court.

Edmonston's Green Team/Edmonston In Bloom group annually takes part in the Anacostia Watershed Society's Earth Day clean-up of the Anacostia River. The Edmonston Green Team led the charge, along with 25 volunteers. In 2017, volunteers scoured both sides of the Anacostia River's 2 mile run through Edmonston and collected 24 bags containing recyclables and 12 bags of trash material, which equates to approximately 750 lbs of bulk trash. In 2016, the volunteers picked up 25 bags of trash along the Anacostia River Trail Park and 24 bags of recycle material.



Recycling is commonplace in Edmonston. The town offers Curbside Residential Single Stream Recycling. It is estimated that the recycling collects 122 tons of items annually that are deferred from the landfill. The Town sponsors two "Dumpster Days". Recyclables are collected and trash is disposed of free. Two 30 yard roll-off dumpsters are filled to capacity within a 4-hour period. Volunteers and Town public works employees are on hand to assist the residents in offloading trash into the dumpsters. Recycling info was provided to the "dumpsters" along with info on how to donate materials to Community Forklift. In Fall, 2016, the Town also hosted a shred truck. Residents were allowed to dispose of bags of documents via the shred truck. Finally, the Town offers yard waste removal once a week.





## ***Heritage – Preserving Your Past for Future Generations***

**Community** - The area of current day Edmonston has roots that date back to the infancy of the United States of America. During the War of 1812, British troops overpowered American forces in what is now Bladensburg, allowing the English to carve a direct path from what is today the Anacostia River to the federal city. Once in Washington, they torched the Capitol



and the White House.

The area of present-day Edmonston acquired its name from Captain James Edmonston, a member of a prominent Bladensburg, Maryland, family. He was called "Captain" because he owned a large ship. In 1742, he paid five shillings for a piece of land upon which the town of Edmonston eventually developed. The Edmonston Family had been active in local Revolutionary War effort and were descendants of the Family Edmonstone of Duntreath Castle, Scotland.

The first modern settlers of the community were Adam Francis Plummer and his wife Emily Saunders Arnold Plummer, who had been slaves of the powerful Calvert family on the Riversdale Plantation in present-day Riverdale Park. Riversdale Plantation is a large-scale late Georgian mansion with superior Federal interior, built between 1801 and 1807. It was designated a [National Historic Landmark](#) in 1997.



Once the manor house and centerpiece of a 739-acre slave plantation, Riversdale was built for Belgian émigré Henri Joseph Stier, Baron de Stier. Stier planned the house in 1801 to resemble his Belgian residence, the Chateau du Mick. Four years later, Stier returned to Belgium, leaving the unfinished Riversdale to be completed by his daughter, Rosalie Stier Calvert and her husband, George Calvert, the son of Benedict Swingate Calvert, who was a natural son of Charles Calvert, 5th Baron Baltimore. Rosalie and George Calvert's son, Charles Benedict



Calvert, established the Maryland Agricultural College, now the University of Maryland, College Park, on part of the Riversdale property.



After the Civil War, Adam Plummer purchased ten acres of land for \$1000, south of the plantation and sought out and recovered family members that had been sold during slavery to deep south plantations, thus establishing the settlement. A skilled horticulturalist, Plummer named the settlement Mt. Rose after his favorite plant and copious rose gardens. Notably, Adam Plummer kept a diary as a slave which today is the only known living slave diary and is a featured exhibit of the Smithsonian Institution. Adam began writing in his diary in 1841 after his marriage to Emily Saunders Arnold and continued until his death in 1905. Adam's daughter, Nellie Arnold Plummer, continued to write in the diary after the death of her father, expanding

on the family narrative begun by her father. The photo on the left depicts Nellie and her brother Robert.

In the late 19th century, a pumping station was constructed in the Palestine subdivision that supplied water to the city of Hyattsville. In 1920, operations were taken over by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission. Also in the Palestine subdivision was the first school to serve the future town of Edmonston. Constructed in 1915, the building has undergone several phases of additions and alterations.



After World War I, the residents of East Hyattsville and Palestine began a movement toward incorporation to improve services. Compared to the established Hyattsville, incorporated in 1886, East Hyattsville contained more working class residents, more modest houses, and more immigrants. When incorporating in 1924, the residents decided to choose a name that would give the town an identity independent from Hyattsville and chose "Edmonston". By 1924, there were several hundred residents; at 49th Avenue and Decatur Street, there was a small neighborhood center with a few stores and a post office. The first items on the agenda for the new municipality were street paving and lighting, construction of a concrete bridge across the Anacostia River, and arrangement with the

fledgling Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission to bring water and sewer pipes into the town.

The community was home to a working middle-class population, many of whom were employed by the U.S. Government as clerks, working for the Departments of War, Treasury, and the Internal Revenue Service, the Printing and Engraving office, the Post Office, and the Department of Agriculture. Still other early residents were employed by the local railroads and served as



engineers, telegraphers, and motormen. Edmonston was also home to many who worked in the construction and building trades.

Edmonston's mayor in 1927 was Kinjiro Matsudaira, the grandson of a Japanese feudal lord. His election received attention in the Philadelphia press at the time with the somewhat inaccurate lead, "Japanese Elected Mayor of American City for the First Time in History." His father, Tadaatsu, came to the United States in 1872 to study and stayed to marry an American woman and pursue a distinguished career in civil engineering. Kinjiro Matsudaira, born in Pennsylvania in 1885, was elected Mayor of Edmonston for a second time in 1943, during World War II.



In the 1930s, development slowed in the community due to the Depression and did not actively begin again until after World War II (1941-1945), with the subdivision of Edmonston Terrace. Platted in 1945 by Master Builders, Inc., the nine-acre subdivision consisted of 41 lots bounded on the north by the south side of Ingraham Street, Lafayette Place on the east, Gallatin Street on the south, and 46th Avenue on the west. Master Builders constructed nearly identical two-story, side-gabled, brick houses on all 41 lots. The houses were marketed directly to veterans returning from the war. With the addition of Edmonston

Terrace, the population of Edmonston grew from 717 in 1930 to 1,190 in 1950. However, the population of the community stabilized as surrounding land was used for industrial and commercial uses. The Town received a Anacostia Heritage Trails Association mini-grant in June 2016 to erect signage kiosks that will tell the story of this historical subdivision.



Buildings in Edmonston represent primarily residential use, with a few dwellings rehabilitated for commercial use along Decatur Street, and several public buildings including the Town Hall and recreation center. Buildings range in age from the late nineteenth century to the 1970s, with the majority dating from the 1890s to 1947. There is little modern infill within the community, but many



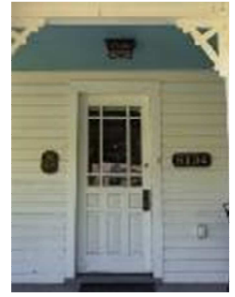
buildings have been altered by modest additions. Building forms represented include the I-house, front-gabled structures, L-shaped plans, American Foursquare, bungalow, minimal traditional, and ranch houses. Several structures are vernacular interpretations of popular styles, while most represent the Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, and Craftsman styles, as well as illustrations from the Modern Movement.





The Poppleton-Roberts House and the Piggott-Sikken House are listed on the Maryland Historic Trust Inventory of Historic Properties.

While there are no nationally designated historic structures or districts in Edmonston, a 2007 survey identified approximately 227 primary resources within the recommended historic district boundaries in Edmonston. These sites and structures have retained integrity of location, design, setting, feeling, and



association that makes most of the community eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. A goal of the Town in the coming year will be to nominate individual structures and historic districts.

**Community Involvement** - Edmonston celebrates its heritage throughout the year with events and celebrations. The most well attended and successful of events is the Black History Month celebration held in February. The featured speaker for 2015 was Rev. Jerome Fowler, the great-great-grandson of Adam Plummer. Plummer Day is celebrated yearly in the Fall each year. In 2017, the theme of the Black History Month event was “A Time for All Cultures to Come Together” A facilitator from the Key Bridge Foundation lead a community discussion on the topic. Little known Black History facts were shared and cultural specific music was shared with guests. A local student composed a poem for the occasion. On Friday night prior to the Black History celebration, the movie Selma was shown at the Edmonston Community Center.



The Town celebrates the founding of Edmonston with a Birthday celebration every year in June. The event begins with a parade and concludes with a festival in the park. . The event for 2017 will be held on June 10<sup>th</sup>. Parade participants include politicians, police departments, fire trucks, cultural music groups, the color guard from the Bladensburg High School JR ROTC unit, fire trucks, clowns, motorcycles, steppers and many other local clubs and organizations. The parade snakes its way through the neighborhoods. The Festival attracts over 500 people each year.





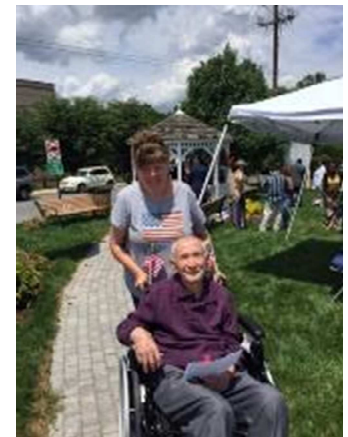


### Historical Sign Reproduced for Veterans' Park –

The Town reproduced a historical sign from the 1940's that was erected to honor the Town's men that were serving in World War II. A local resident provided the Town with a picture of the original sign. The sign was reconstructed and erected in Veterans' Park as a reminder to the Town's history.



**Memorial Day Ceremony** - Veterans' Park was the site of the Town's first Memorial Day Wreath Laying Ceremony in 2017. Mayor Gant honored the soldiers that gave their lives for our freedom. Over 50 people attended the first event in Edmonston. Representatives of four of the Armed Services branches assisted the Mayor with the wreath laying.





**Cultural History Celebrated** - The History of Edmonston revolves around being a “Bridging Community” We have a very culturally diverse population. In honor of that, we play host to an annual Mexican Independence Day and an annual Cinco de Mayo celebration. An area resident in cooperation with the Mexican Consulate’s Office sets up the festivals in the Town’s Recreation Center Park. The Town is a sponsor, provides security, sets up booths for information on the community and assists with the overall operation of the festivals. Each festival draws hundreds of spectators to enjoy the cultural food and entertainment.





## ***Overall Impression***

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### **Public**

Edmonston – A Bridging Community. Despite its small population and lack of many elements that are found in almost every town and city in America, Edmonston has capitalized on its unique situation by focusing on its residents. By providing programs and initiatives such as the HEAL (Healthy Eating, Active Living), and forging partnerships with the Maryland Park and Planning Commission, Prince George's County Department of Environment, Maryland Energy Administration, Port Towns Community Health Partnership, Edmonston has worked diligently to improve the quality of life of its residents.

Edmonston employs two full time public works employees and one full time code enforcement officer. Due to the unique situation of being a land-locked community, Edmonston must rely on the Maryland Highway Department, Prince Georges County, and the Maryland Park and Planning Commission for assistance with maintenance of areas along Decatur Street and Kenilworth Avenue, and the Recreation Center. Partnerships with these public entities have allowed Edmonston to regularly police areas of the town that would otherwise only be maintained a few times a year.

The Town employs a full-time Code Enforcement Officer. The position had been vacant for a number of months. The Town's new Code Officer started on May 1. The Code officer works with businesses and residents to ensure full compliance with Town ordinances. The Code Officer uses an electric Nissan Leaf vehicle to do her work. The vehicle was obtained in a grant from the Maryland Smart Energy Communities program.

The Town contracts for street sweeping 4 times a year. The street sweeper covers all .40 square miles of the Town. In addition, the Town holds a Spring and Fall Dumpster Day event. The event provides residents with a free opportunity to dispose of trash. Reusable items are diverted to Community Forklift. In 2016, the Town added a shred truck to the Dumpster Day events. Residents could bring bags of important papers to dispose of free.

The Public Works staff of two employees daily collects trash from the Town streets and right-of-way's. They collect and dump all the trash cans located in public right-of-way's. Two Big Belly Trash receptacles were installed in 2016. The receptacles provide for recycling and trash. They are solar powered and compact the trash. In addition, they notify staff when they are full. The staff uses the electric GEM vehicle to collect the litter from throughout the community.

The Edmonston In Bloom Green Team annually serves as a site leader for the Anacostia Watershed Society's Earth Day Cleanup. The Team of 25 to 40 volunteers focus on collecting trash along the NE Branch of the Anacostia River that flows through Edmonston. In 2017, 25 volunteers collected 22 bags of recycling and 12 bags of trash.

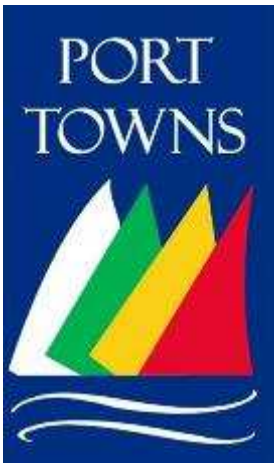




The Town added banners to Decatur Street in 2016. There are 40 street light poles on Decatur Street. The first phase of banners purchased were for 20 of the poles. In the FY17-18 budget, the Town will complete the purchase of 20 more brackets for the light poles. Banners are changed with the seasons.

The Town has an aggressive history with seeking alternative funding to complete projects. In the past 2.5 years, the Town has received over \$725,000 in grant funding for infrastructure projects such as sidewalks, street repaving, development of a community garden, planting trees, the purchase of electric vehicles and the construction of green streets. In late 2017, the Town will complete capital projects that include the repair of Decatur Street, reconstruction of sidewalks on 49<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Taylor Road, stormwater improvements at Tanglewood, and the repaving of Crittenden Street.

## Regional



Port Towns Day is held every year on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of September at the Bladensburg Waterfront Park. The one-day event includes music, rides, food and informational booths. Outstanding citizen volunteers are recognized from each community at the event. Each community contributes funds for the activity. In addition, funds are raised from advertising and from booth rental. The 2017 event will be the 21st anniversary of Port Towns Day. One Community Volunteer is recognized from each Port Towns Community.

Port Towns Legislative Day – Edmonston is the coordinator for an annual dinner conducted for the Port Towns. State officials, local legislators, State Agency Heads, Prince George’s County officials and business and industry leaders are invited to the dinner for the Port Towns to present their legislative agenda for the year. The dinner is held at the Colmar Manor Town Hall. The theme for 2016 was “Inclusive and Sustainable Place Making in the Port Towns”

Port Towns Booth – The four towns develop an informational booth each year for the Maryland Municipal League Summer Conference. The booth is part of the “Main Street” exhibit for the MML. The booth highlights tourism, sustainability and community. The theme for 2017 is “Building Inclusive and Diverse Communities.”

The Town of Edmonston is home to 136 businesses. Mayor Gant began meeting quarterly with the business community. The program provides information to the businesses on what is going on in the community and gives the business owners an opportunity to network with other businesses in Edmonston.



## Community Involvement

Community involvement is always an impressive sight. The Port Towns Communities support one another in events, projects and initiatives. To accommodate the large Hispanic population, the monthly newsletter and all town publications are printed in English and Spanish.

Because the town does not have its own library, the Edmonston Green Team implemented the “Little Free Library” program. Free-standing cabinets containing books of all interest are located throughout the community. Students from the University of Maryland constructed the initial 6 libraries.



Senior Citizen Monthly Luncheons – Mayor Gant began monthly Senior Citizen lunches in 2017. The lunches are held on a Saturday from 12 to 3 and include bingo or craft time. Volunteers prepare the food and staff assists with the serving and the games. Themes have focused on Mother's Day, Valentine's Day, and St. Patrick's Day. In addition, the Police Chief periodically conducts a breakfast for seniors in the

community. For Easter, volunteers and staff cooked Easter dinners and placed them in to go packages. The mayor and Town Council members delivered the meals to senior citizens throughout the community.

Make A Difference Volunteer Recognition Day Mayor Gant and the Town Council annually recognize volunteers in the community. In 2016, 35 volunteers were recognized at a reception prior to the lighting of the Mayor's Christmas Tree. Certificates of appreciation were given to volunteers. Refreshments were provided. Volunteers ranged from a 17-year-old high school student to the spouses of Town employees. It was estimated that volunteers provided over 2,000 hours of volunteer labor in 2016.



The Town annually delivers 35 turkey baskets and 35 Christmas baskets to needy families in the community. The food is acquired from the SHARE program and distributed in festive baskets. It includes a turkey, chicken, sausage, pumpkin pie, potatoes, onions, bread, stuffing, and vegetables. A card is included with each basket from the Mayor and Town Council. The Mayor, staff and volunteers personally deliver the baskets on the Monday prior to Thanksgiving and on the Wednesday prior to Christmas.





**Halloween Party and Yard Decorating Contest** - The Town host an annual Halloween party for children. Volunteers assist with handing out treats to the children at the Edmonston Recreation Center. Over 200 children participate each year. In addition, the Town sponsors a yard decorating contest. A \$100 gift certificate is awarded to the winner.



**Mayor's Christmas Tree Lighting** – On the first Saturday evening of December, the Mayor's Christmas Tree Lighting occurs in Veterans' Park. A tall Christmas tree is lite with lights and the Mayor flips the switch to signify the Holiday season has begun in Edmonston. There are carolers, hot chocolate and a visit from Santa Claus.



**Town Christmas Party and Yard Decorating Contest** – The Town annually hosts a Christmas party at the Edmonston Recreation Center. The event attracts over 100 children for food, games and a visit from Santa Claus. Local businesses provide donations of food. Each child is given a bag of treats.

**National Night Out** The Edmonston Police Department conducts a National Night Out event on August 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. The event attracts 300 to 400 people. The Police Officers provide demonstrations and Council Member Johnson operates the grill. A local ice cream distributor provides free ice cream. There are games and fun for all.





## Schools

The Town of Edmonston does not have any schools located within the boundaries of the Town. All our children attend school in other communities. One half of the elementary age children attend Roger Heights Elementary in Bladensburg and one half attend Riverdale Elementary in Riverdale Park. The children attend William Wirt Middle School and Bladensburg High School. The Town of Edmonston has formed relationships with all the schools.

At Roger Heights, Elementary, the Town has partnered with them for an after-school Homework club. Mayor Gant and the Town Council advocated for the program and sought volunteers to help with the weekly activity. The students meet once a week at the Edmonston Recreation Center. Volunteer Teachers that speak Spanish assist the students with their homework. The Town provides snacks and library books for reading. In addition, two of the Volunteer Teachers have recorded 9 sessions of instruction that will be shown on the Town's Government Access Channel throughout the summer.



The Town of Edmonston held a Science Fair for students in Middle School. University of Maryland students volunteered to provide ideas for science fair projects. The morning seminar allowed students to work with the volunteers on concepts for projects. In addition, the university students gave career tips.

The Town became a summer food program site in 2016. Children from 6 to 18 years of age could come to the Town Hall for breakfast and lunch each day of the week. Over 300 meals were served during the summer. Reading time and sports time were included as part of the activities. Volunteers read books in English and Spanish to the children attending.



Mayor Gant implemented a program at Christmas Time to adopt-a-child. 22 Edmonston children were adopted for Christmas. 8 businesses and 3 individuals provided gifts for children that were identified by the School Counselor as children in need. The gifts included clothes, toys and food. Mayor Gant presented the gifts at a reception at Town Hall that included the parents and children. The children could not open the bag of gifts until Christmas. A extra special event happened during the reception as Santa Claus arrived on the Fire Truck.

The Edmonston Police Department participated in Shop with a Cop. The program provides children the opportunity to spend time with a Police Officer shopping for Christmas. They ride in a patrol



vehicle and shop for themselves and their family members. Edmonston participates in two programs and assisted 4 children.

Safe Routes to Schools Grant – The Town was awarded a \$279,000 Safe Routes to Schools grant in 2016. The grant will provide funds to construct sidewalks on two of the Town's main streets.

End Time Harvest Ministries – The Town partners with End Time Harvest Ministries to employ 2 high school students for 6 weeks in the summer time. The End Time program is a success for all program at Bladensburg High School. The summer is themed and focused on healthy environment.

Popsicles for the Children – The Mayor and Town Council meet the school buses 2 times a year to provide popsicles to the Children. One of the days is the last day of school.



## **Best Idea**

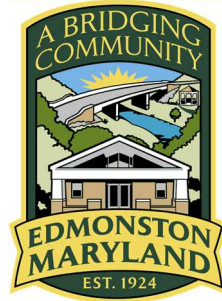
In 500 words or less, describe the best idea or best practice your town has implemented this year.



Edmonston's best idea for 2017 is the locating of planters on Main Street, Town Hall, Community Garden, Plummer Mural and at the Edmonston Recreation Center. The very large concrete planters were donated to the Town by a local business, Metro Paving. Metro Paving is a past recipient of one of the America in Bloom judge's door knockers recognizing their efforts with planting vegetables and flowers around their businesses. Volunteers designed the plant arrangement for each planter. The planters were planted using the spiller, thriller, filler concept. Coleus, Japanese Maples, lantana, nemesia, cannas, majestic ferns, banana plants and pencil thin holly were used in the planters. Bulbs will be placed in the planters in the Fall for early spring color.



# Itinerary



## AIB Judges Schedule (Tentative) – July 26-27, 2017

### Green Team Edmonston In Bloom

#### Tuesday, July 25

Judge Kristen Pategas Arrives (Flying from Florida), Picked up by Marjorie Egee

Judge Marjorie Egee Arrives (Driving from Delaware)

Housing: Rod & Ed's Town Home, 4312 Telfair Blvd., Camp Springs, MD 20746

Dinner with Mayor Gant, David Tana, Green Team Chair, Town Administrator Rod Barnes and Green Team Member Ed Hooker 6:00 p.m.

Sponsored by Individuals pay for own

#### Wednesday, July 26

Breakfast at Community Forklift, 4671 Tanglewood and Tour 9:00 a.m.  
(Breakfast sponsored by Community Forklift, provided by Shortcake Bakery)

Overview of Edmonston Presentation at Town Hall, 5005 52<sup>nd</sup> Avenue 10:00 a.m.

Green Streets, Environmental Initiatives, Year-in-Review – Presentation by Tracy Gant, Mayor of Edmonston and Maryland Municipal League Past President

How partnerships work for the Town of Edmonston – Rod Barnes, Town Administrator

- Anacostia Watershed Society
- Rogers Heights Elementary School
- Riverdale Elementary School
- William Wirt Middle School
- Bladensburg High School
- Chesapeake Bay Trust
- Port Towns Community Development Corporation
- Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission



- Prince George's County
- State of Maryland
- Port Towns
- Prince George's County Department of Environment
- Prince George's Economic Development
- Maryland Energy Administration
- University of Maryland
- Port Towns Community Health Partnership
- Bladensburg Volunteer Fire Department
- Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission
- Sustainable Maryland
- Nonprofits: Eco City Farms, End Time Harvest Ministries, Community Forklift

Walk to Decatur and talk about the Complete Street project

Driving Tour of Edmonston 11:15 a.m.

Lunch at Three Brothers, 5346 46<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 11:30 a.m.

End Time Harvest Ministries Port Towns Youth Council – Rev. Gail's kids  
Rev. Gail Addison, Director  
Sponsored by Hampton Nursery

Bladensburg Waterfront Park 1:00 p.m.

Pontoon Boat ride on the Anacostia – Anacostia Watershed Society  
Jim Foster, Director

**Judges Time to Work on Evaluation at Mayor's Office** 3:00-6:00 p.m.

Dinner and question and answer time with Mayor Gant and members of the Edmonston Town Council at the Edmonston Town Hall 6:00 p.m.

Sponsored by: Robey's Towing & Metro Paving

#### **Thursday, July 27**

Breakfast at Shortcake Bakery, 4700 Rhode Island Avenue at Hyattsville 8:30 a.m.

Sponsored by:  
Program: Port Towns

Busy Bee Environmental Camp 9:30 a.m.

Valerie Rucker-Jones, Director

Tour Anacostia River Trail 10:30 a.m.

ATHA – Aaron Marcavitch, Director, Anacostia Heritage Trails Assn.  
Bike/Pedestrian Plan at ECO City Farms

Tour Eco City 11:00 a.m.



## History of Urban Farming Aaron Griner –Edmonston Farm Manager

Lunch at Veterans’ Park, Edmonston Sponsored by: La Fondita Restaurant	12:00 p.m.
Focus on the Gardens in Edmonston Edmonston Community Garden, 5010 47 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, John Johnson, Coordinator Ollie’s Turn Gardens Maggie’s Garden, 5108 Decatur Nick Peters, Decatur Barb’s, 49 <sup>th</sup> Avenue	1:00 p.m.     (Yard of the Month Recipient)
Wrap Up	
<b>Judges time to work on Evaluation at Rod &amp; Ed’s House</b>	<b>2:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.</b>
Leave for Dinner	6:15 p.m.
Maryland Crab Feast @ Council Member Sarah Turberville & Carmen Daugherty’s House 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Menu: Maryland Crabs, Hamburger, Hot Dogs, Cole slaw, Corn-on-the cob and Green Salad Iced Tea, Beer, Water Members of the Green Team, Mayor and Town Council Sponsored by Professional Landscape Maintenance	
<b>Friday, July 28</b>	
Judges Depart from Area	8:00 a.m.



## Contacts

Name/Address	Affiliation/title	Email	Phone
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Chris McCrae	Owner Professional Landscape Maintenance		240 687-8893
Valerie Rucker-Jones	Camp Director Busy Bees	<a href="mailto:vruckerjones@edmonstonmd.gov">vruckerjones@edmonstonmd.gov</a>	301 699-8806



## *Sponsors and Partners – Edmonston in Bloom*

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*David Vacanti & Chris McCrae*  
*Professional Landscape Maintenance*  
*4211 Queensbury Road*  
*Hyattsville, MD 20781*  
*240 687-8893*

Peter Houghton  
Hampton Nursery  
7400 Annapolis Road  
Hyattsville, ME 20781

*Mike Dumas*  
*Robey's Towing*  
*5430 Lafayette Place*  
*Edmonston, MD 20781*

*Eloisa Guzman*  
*La Fondita Restaurant*  
*4901 Decatur*  
*Edmonston, MD 20781*  
*301 440-8898*

Nancy Meyer, CEO  
Community Forklift  
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*Addie Rodrigues*  
*Metro Paving Corporation*  
*5470 Lafayette Place*  
*Edmonston, MD 20781*





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